



Monday, November 7, 2022

Subject: COVID-19 Update for Spring 2023 Semester

To the MassBay Community,

I hope the fall 2022 semester has been a successful one for you all. It is truly gratifying to see many of you on campus!

As I hope you know, MassBay Community College has been extremely diligent and thoughtful as we have navigated the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We rely on guidance from federal and state public health agencies and on our own common sense to develop policies and procedures that most effectively advance our goal to provide the highest quality education and support services in the safest possible environment. And, as the pandemic has evolved over the past 2 ½ years, our policies and procedures have evolved with it to ensure the highest level of safety possible.

I want to thank all of you for your continued patience and respect for one another as we have collectively dealt with the pandemic. Despite the challenges wrought by this public health challenge, our community has remained a supportive, collaborative environment.

As we turn our attention to the upcoming spring 2023 semester, MassBay will continue with its incremental approach to a new normal. The College will provide information, advice, and materials, and we trust that each community member will make decisions that protect themselves and our collective community.

As of January 3, we will be implementing the following:

- The 3-foot social distance requirement is lifted.
- Course caps will increase to 26 for the Spring 2023 semester for most in-person classes (with some exceptions).
- The limit on room capacity for classes and events is lifted.
- Masking will remain optional and encouraged.

The loosening of these requirements is not to suggest that this pandemic has run its course. We reserve the right to change course at any time, to require masks to be worn, to reinstate social distancing in our buildings, and to take any and all measures to ensure the safety of our community for as long as this unpredictable pandemic continues to present a threat to the public. We will also continue providing these cautionary measures:

- Requiring faculty, staff, and guests to be fully vaccinated.
- Free surgical and KN95 masks.
- Free antigen rapid tests.
- A robust cleaning program and making hand sanitizers readily available.

Also, there are two policies that will remain in place for next semester:

Proof of Vaccination Requirement

There has been no change in the Massachusetts Community Colleges COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for faculty, staff, and students, and submission of written proof of full vaccination status or of an approved accommodation remains a requirement. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts also has not changed its policy of requiring vaccination or an approved accommodation for all employees. Please note, if you have uploaded your proof of vaccination in any previous semester, you do not need to do so again for the spring 2023 semester.

Guest Policy

The Guest Policy is unchanged from the fall 2022 semester. All guests must use the [MassBay Guest Form](#) to upload their proof of vaccination to come to campus. These individuals will be issued a green check mark, which indicates they are approved to come to campus. We continue to ask every guest and every member of our community to refrain from coming to campus if you don't feel well – even if you have been issued a green check.

I also want to inform you that for the remainder of this semester, ISA security officers will no longer be checking green checks at the doors. By now, we are aware of who is fully vaccinated and who is not. The officers will temporarily return to their posts at the Wellesley Hills and Framingham campuses at the beginning of the semester to ensure new and returning members of our community have uploaded their proof of vaccination or have received an approved accommodation.

Moving forward, we will rely on each one of you to keep our community safe. **If you aren't feeling well, do not come to campus even if you test negative for COVID.** If you are experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms, have been exposed to COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19, notify the College via the mobile app or by calling 781-239-2222. Follow the weekly data being sent by the COVID Compliance email address, and take extra precautions when our numbers rise. Regularly test for COVID. Remain up-to-date on your COVID-19 immunizations. Wash your hands frequently, and wear a mask if you feel more comfortable doing so.

Again, thank you for remaining a collaborative, respectful community. If you have any feedback regarding these changes to these policies, please feel free to email me.

Best wishes for your continued success this semester, and I look forward to another productive semester this spring. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Podell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Podell, Ph.D.
President